

Free NY

WORKING TO ACHIEVE LIBERTY IN OUR LIFETIME



THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE LIBERTARIAN PARTY OF NEW YORK

VOL 3: ISSUE 2B - APR 2005

HOW RELEVANT IS THE LIBERTARIAN VISION?

BY WERNER HETZNER

*DOES AMERICA REALLY SEEK LIBERTY, OR
ARE WE PREACHING TO A BRICK WALL?*

The Libertarian Party has been around since the early '70s. Libertarian values have been around since the days of Locke. Indeed, the country was founded on the ideas of individual liberty and limited government power. Yet, the same ideas that form the basis of our constitution have been disregarded again and again in our political marketplace. Voters regularly reject libertarians at the polls in overwhelming numbers and consistently vote for politicians who offer government solutions to perceived social problems. How can this be explained? Is it our message

or our messengers? Can both be doomed to irrelevance in today's body politic? Is a vote for Libertarians a wasted vote? Why bother having a Libertarian Party?

It appears some reasonable people think the problem is with the message. The message is couched in antigovernment rather than pro-liberty sentiments. In other words, voters want liberty and will support and vote for libertarians because of it.

Does the evidence support the idea that people will vote for liberty? Regrettably, I don't see it. The

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GOVERNMENT MISCHIEF IN THE MONEY SUPPLY AND THE DESTABILIZING EVIL OF "FIAT" MONEY

by Bob Cotton

On September 11, 2001, we were shocked to find our enemies on our doorstep. Our policy prior to the attack, to give in to the demands of hijackers, had been rooted in our assumption that hijackers want to live. Relying totally on this premise, our policy invited disaster. We learned this lesson the hard way. But our government felt it had to do much more than learn a lesson. Two wars later we are burdened with continued violence and unending expense in Iraq. Our budget and debt are out of control. The economic recovery, desired so long by so many, is still very much in doubt. Nevertheless, inflation is detectable and the Federal Reserve has begun its usual series

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SIX WEEKS AFTER ELECTION DAY PART II

by Donald Silberger
NY Libertarian Candidate for US Senate (2004)

Where To From Here? Our party's failure lies not in its doctrine. Our failure lies in a two-per-cent audience where ninety per cent is required. We must significantly increase our public exposure. Overall I got 0.3% of the vote. But I got more than 1% in Manhattan, a city in which I did less than six hours' personal campaigning, passing out a total of perhaps five hundred flyers.

What caused this local spike in my total? Was it Nic's campaign? Guns For Tots? Tobacco smokers' rights? TimesScam? Ron Moore's postcards to Republicans in support of Leobold, Badnarik, and Silberger? We don't know. We should try to find out.

We need presence in our communities between elections. Periodically running candidates accomplishes little without it. We should work in organizations promoting causes on which the LP takes salient positions.

Press releases seem to me useless unless there is real news announced in them. But people read Letters To The Editor (LTEs) in their local papers, and LTEs are easy to publish. Intelligently written LTEs will gain adherents to our cause. Out of many adherents come a few

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Free NY

Newsletter
of the
New York
Libertarian
Party

Editor:

Gary Treistman
garyonthenet@yahoo.com

Asst Editor

Bob Cotton
rmcotton@gmail.com

Pertinent FreeNY NY

Libertarian Party Officers:

John Clifton
NYLP Chair
johnclifton@netzero.com

Werner Hetzner
Treasurer
whetzner@mac.com

Blay Tarnoff
Telecommunication Ofc
LPNY@eblay.com

**Letters/Comments/
Articles/Notices/
Announcements, or
Advertising Inquiries,
should be sent to:
FreeNY@hvc.rr.com**

or to:

**Editor
Free NY
POB 563
Bearsville, NY 12409
(845) 679-4790
Submissions deadline
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next issue publication
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Attention to Subscribers and Readers of FreeNY:

This issue is Issue 2B of FreeNY, it is the second edition of the April 2005 Issue, and includes happenings and occurrences at the NYLP Annual Convention. Otherwise it is very similar.

If you would like to see Issue 2(A), browse to briefcase.yahoo.com/garyonthenet.

The opinions expressed in this publication do not necessarily reflect the official stance of the NYLP, and are otherwise the authors' responsibility. References made to the "NYLP" and "LPNY" are equivalent and stand for The Libertarian Party of New York.

Would you prefer to receive Free NY in electronic format?

On Dec 4, 2003, the NYLP Committee voted to make all issues of FreeNY available to the public, via the NYLP Website. So if you would prefer to receive it in that form as soon as it is finalized (typically 2 weeks prior to publication), please visit: briefcase.yahoo.com/garyonthenet, or visit ny.lp.org/FreeNY. You may also opt out of receiving the hard copy of FreeNY at a link there or by contacting the Editor.

Free NY is currently published 4 times a year. Subscriptions are \$12/Year; To join the LP, and receive this publication free, see Membership Form on Back Page or see the NYLP Website for more information on the NY Libertarian Party: www.ny.lp.org. © This work is copyrighted 4/2005, none of this copy or content may be redistributed w/o permission.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

No Letters were Submitted this Issue

OUR PARTY MATTERS

LPNY CONVENTION NEWS

The 2005 LPNY Convention was held on April 23, 2005 at the Holiday Inn at Carrier Circle in Syracuse.

Pre-convention informal meetings assembled

on April 22 at the Lucy's Bar in the Holiday Inn, early registration in the Atrium, .

The LPNY will likely plan to hold the next state convention on April 29, 2006 in Albany, NY.

Important New York State Libertarian Party Eligible Candidate Information

Our independent Libertarian candidates for 2005 will have ballot access petitions ready and can start collecting voter signatures July 12. If you would like to help LP candidates get on the ballot and be a great resource to the Party by petitioning, please contact your local candidates, officers of the LPNY, or myself. Some of our candidates are also LP officers, including myself, and all appreciate your assistance to help Free NY. Thank you in advance.

LPNY Committee Quarterly Meeting Briefs

The last quarterly LPNY State Committee meeting occurred on Jan 29, 2005 in Sloatsburg, NY.

In selected highlights of the meeting, the Committee discussed/planned:

Donald Meinshausen spoke to the Committee via speakerphone, relayed his current problems with the law, and offered his services from prison.

(Mr. Meinshausen was one the co-founders of the Libertarian Party, and currently faces sentencing on federal controlled substances charges, messages to him can be sent to freedonnow@yahoo.com)

Razor's Edge, the National LP's new comprehensive shared database goes online, discussion as to NYLP's taking advantage of its reports in consolidation of pertinent membership data.

Dr. Tom Stevens noted the establishment of LibertarianFreedomCouncil.org, a new website that offers the latest data on Libertarian college contacts, and the news on its charter.

Gary Donoyan, the NYLP's political director, asserted that more consolidated form in the ways and means of the activity of the state organiza-

tion is necessary. He observed that, among other things, many NYS libertarian groups are not even aware of the existence of the NYS Libertarian Committee; such groups would be best served to consolidate monthly meetings under the auspices of true chapter status.

Larry McEhinney was introduced to the Committee, proffered to be Temporary Chair to Westchester County, and subsequently voted into that office by the Committee.

Gary Treistman and Dr. Tom Stevens critically observed the recent NYLP trend of appointing Temporary Chairs, and commented that there should be some bylaw change to apply a sunset provision for Temporary Chairs' to automatically remain in such positions.

Gary Treistman offered (humorously) that, lacking such a sunset provision, that such temporary chairs' official title be changed to "Permanent Temporary Chapter Chair".

Jeff Shapiro, LPNY Legislative Director, calls upon the Committee, and all LPNY members, to submit to him any leads/information on NYS legislation affecting libertarian values and ways

of life in NYS (send any leads to penanglaw@aol.com)

member contact info.
Motion carries.

A motion was made to provide one annual free subscription to any person sponsored by a LPNY member. Provisional and other non-member FreeNY subscribers will maintained in a separate database parallel to LP member subscribers by a Comm member still to be designated.

Current members who wish to sponsor a non-member for a free FreeNY subscription are requested to contact any Committee member, e.g., see ny.lp.org/official/officers.htm for Committee

Questions were put forth to the Committee, and discussions had, pertaining to the new federal SEC laws, e.g., the recent government illegalizing of free speech when referring to public office candidates in the media (60 days prior to election).

(See official Committee transcripts of 1/29/2005 for more Committee meeting deliberations.

Ed. Note: By time of this publication, the official 1/29/2005 minutes were not submitted to FreeNY)

LIBERTARIAN PARTY OF NY YAHOO GROUPS

New York Libertarians perform a large part of NYLP communications on the Yahoo email group lists.

The Yahoo email groups are a service provided by Yahoo.com that brings together all members of a particular (named) group in common communication, by receiving an email from any one member of the group, and automatically emailing that message to all other members of the group. In this way, all members are apprised of all messages posted to the group members.

Mailing lists are THE political action tool of the future. Below is a list of all the NYLP Come join some listed here, or start your own. Each of the following may be viewed and joined by pointing your browser to groups.yahoo.com/group/<enter name of group here>

lpny_announce

If you only join one list, let this be it! It's for occasional announcements only, a one way, moderated list. No discussion here--any replies or postings will be bounced to the list moderators. If you have items (of interest to NY libertarians) to be announced, let us know.

LibertarianFreedomCouncil

The Libertarian Freedom Council is set up to coordinate Libertarian college chapters. The list is moderated by LPNY's College Outreach Coordinator, Dr. Thomas Robert Stevens.

lpny

Real live Activist Planning! This list features tactical planning for activist activities like OPH (Operation Politically Homeless), seminars, and rallies. A calendar of upcoming events possible for outreach is sent every week, and a file of recurring events (weekly, monthly and annual events) is sent to this list monthly, on the first of each month.

lpny_candidates

This list is for past, present and potential Libertarian candidates for office in New York state. If you have suggestions for a candidate or want to be one, let us know!

lpny_committee

This list is for state committee business. Per our bylaws, all members are permitted to join this list in read-only mode to observe committee business. Party officers, former officers, and special advisors to the committee are able to post to the list. Members with something to add to our conversations, please ask your chapter representative or another member of the state committee to forward it to the list for you.

lpny_legal

This list is to discuss possible legal maneuvers to advance libertarianism in NY. All are invited who share our views on the subjects discussed, such as preventing most or all current eminent domain proceedings, the illegality of NY State bond issues, discussing the defense of people facing prosecution for a victimless crime, planning our next election law suit, coming up with bills to ask legislators to propose, etc.

NYSLegislativeWatch

We're looking for a co-editor to send postings to this moderated list about NYS legislation from a libertarian perspective.

LPNY_2006

Subcommittee: 2006 Statewide Candidate Search Committee

Goal: To find a libertarian candidate who can win us ballot status in 2006, with 50,000 votes! This committee is headed by Werner Hetzner, and is an official sub-committee of the LPNY. Interested members are welcome to join. The list is moderated.

lpny_membership

Subcommittee: Membership and Interest Group Relations

Goal: Increase number of members, retention of members, and activity from members. Also, better networking with interest groups (issue groups) in New York in the search for libertarian allies and supporters.

lpny_petitioning

Subcommittee: Petitioning

Goal: organize for the next petitioning drive; learn from previous ones.

lpny_media

Subcommittee: Media

Goal: improve communication from the party, its members and candidates to the media. We now also have our Cable-Access project to discuss! We're trying to use Yahoo's database feature here to keep track of our Libertarian community-access cable contacts, so please join if you want to talk about videos available for you to submit to YOUR local cable company!

Descriptions and links to all of the above groups may be found at: ny.lp.org/online/lists.htm

Members should also be aware of the following groups:

lpny_discuss

WARNING: This mailing list is a Free Speech Forum. Anything goes, and usually does. New member moderation is only to keep out spammers. YOYOW--you own your own words. I.e., you are accountable for what you say, and other people may criticize it here. Please try to avoid ad hominem arguments: they are not proof of the incorrectness of someone's ideas, and they make it harder to have a productive conversation.

Please stick to the main subject: topics and news of a Libertarian nature, especially relating to New York State. There are other lists for more general libertarian philosophy. Questions about the LPNY and its direction are welcome, as are suggestions.

NYS_InitiativeCoalition

It is the purpose of this coalition to advance positive changes in the laws and constitutions of the various governments throughout the State of New York by advancing ballot measures to the respective ballots of those areas and promoting those measures through grass-roots efforts.

Local LPNY chapter lists:

lpny_capital

lpny_hudsonvalley

lthaca_LP

lpny_kings

lpny_li

lpny_manhattan

lpny_northern

lpqc

lpny_westchester

lpny_western

On the above local lists, we focus more on relevance to the area covered than on quantity of postings. Other than lpny_manhattan and now lthaca_LP, which are active lists in their own right, these lists are meant to supplement other libertarian lists you might be on, with news that's local for you. Share those news stories that affect your county!

AN OVERVIEW FROM THE NYLP**CHAIR,**

FROM THE CHAIR

3 DEGREES OF DISINVESTMENT & IRS

Mayoral Update:

As a starting point, upon further review of the matter with Audrey Silk, and along with the IRS issue (see below), I have decided to rescind my candidacy to be nominated for NYC Mayor. I think Silk will be a fine LP candidate based on my meeting with her and her activism at this time.

I expect to pursue nomination for Queens Borough President via LPQC, and feel I can do much of what I wanted to do in terms of the enrollment drive through that candidacy (plus it can help the mayoral candidate during the petition drive).

Three Degrees of Disinvestment:

About two years ago, I outlined my concept of a LP 'Unified Plan' (message 14651 on the online yahoo lyny_discuss list) that reconciled big L and little 'l' libertarian movements (LP Strategic Plan, plus the activity of non-political libertarians).

The top formulations of the mission and goal were, and are as follows:

MISSION: To participate in producing/restoring a libertarian society (or 'culture of liberty'), that is sustained at all levels jointly by strict limits on state power and claims to authority, by electoral dynamics, and by major societal institutional interests.

GOAL(S):

(a.) To Replace the prevalent pro-coercion, pro-maximum government dynamics of the current order, with institutions and sentiments consistent with a libertarian society.

(b.) To more effectively enact a change towards a libertarian order, through its appropriate integration and functioning within the entire social movement for liberty.

(c.) To develop a more consistent orientation for both communication of libertarian thought, and its cultivation of (or engagement with) congruent and supporting institutions. The component strategies that flowed from this included Disinvestment (from the statist establishment), Integration (cooperating more with non-activist libertarians), Shadow Government (building a bank of personages and policies ready to assume power), Sufficiency (only proceeding with activism if the resources exist to support at least an educational campaign), Establishment-Building (build a libertarian-oriented coalition of institutions), Competitive Model (decentralize LP operations as much as possible). Later on, I added

Triangulation (using radical activity calculated to nudge the establishment towards a libertarian, or at least different legislative outcome than statists planned).

I put the goals and strategies together in one acronym, and call it "RED DISSECT." I stand by my breakdown, and would like to elaborate on 'Disinvestment' as one practical means of 'changing the outcome' and moving towards a more libertarian culture. Based on one's time, energies and existing commitments, there are differing ways and distances one can go to resist or confront the institutional statism currently built into the system.

The three most obvious ones are:

A) Disassociation: Why do freedom advocates spend much of their life feeding the monster we rage against? "Confronting tyranny is obedience toward God," said Thomas Jefferson. But if LP members do little more than passively de-couple themselves from the beast, they will have taken the first painless step toward changing the outcome. Examples of disassociating oneself (cost-free) from the status quo are to

1) Stop believing the government's/media lies, coverup and spin, and

2) Stop voting for Democrats and Republicans (by either voting only for LP candidates, or not voting at all). Trust the internet, foreign press and alternative media only. Do NOT answer the "wasted vote" objection with rundowns of how many LP candidates serve in minor office, or "margin of difference" vote tallies (ancient sports expression: stats are for losers); instead explain that about half the public does not vote for the duopoly, and that a vote for a principled third party shows they are participating in the majority's decision to withdraw conferring credibility upon the two pro-government parties.

B) Sacrifice: This variation requires one to pay something (cash and or time) to disinvest. The prime example of this is the homeschooling movement, where parents have decided to put their money where their mouth is concerning rejecting the government schools. Other examples would be maintaining aggressive privacy stance, going through the labor and paperwork of setting up your finances so as to "go off the grid" of being trackable by SSN and database networks. There is tremendous sense of

C) Direct Confrontation: Of course, the most perilous course of resistance to authoritarian overreach is to directly defy it, for this puts your

liberty on the line. I am in that position now, and here is my story.

Third Degree Disinvestment Tactics with the IRS:

I must disclose at this time that I am one of the named plaintiffs in Schulz/We the People's Right to Petition suit, and have been withholding funds under the constitutional right to petition until appropriate answers have come from the IRS (see giveliberty.org for all details).

I have requested the IRS provide specific documentation (that cites the applicable law and implementing regulations) proving that I have a tax liability, or that they have jurisdiction with regards to my person. I have submitted abundant opinion letter and affidavit documentation from We the People et al (from tax professionals, IRS agents, CPAs) to my IRS file to provide the basis for a 'reliance' defense, should the courts not grant an request by the plaintiff class in the WTP suit to block IRS enforcement actions, pending the trial's final resolution.

Whatever the outcome of the WTP suit, I'm also using the administrative/UCC approach, involving what's called the Notary Certificate (or Affidavit) of Default method in the tax honesty movement literature. It involves writing a notarized letter that conditionally accepts paying the tax, fees etc., "upon proof of claim"--that is, the IRS proves you're liable, that they have jurisdiction, etc. If they don't respond in 15 or whatever days specified, they have 'dishonored' you, and conceded your answers as presumed fact. After submitting a NCD that states your answers (that you're not liable, that they have no jurisdiction, etc.) as conceded fact, you're in position to vacate IRS liens, levies, and/or seek a judgement to recover your money. Because it is an administrative solution, it can prevent a case from going fully into the litigative stage.

Anyway, the IRS has proceeded aggressively. I was scheduled to appear at an IRS meeting in Garden City on 3/7, and I took two brave LP members join me as a witness to the proceedings. (I can provide details and a list of the documents I submitted for those interested.) My meeting went about as well as I could manage under the circumstances (the head collection agent was abrasive and uncomprehending, just as expected). My witnesses found my presentation compelling, and said the agents reacted like what they heard

from me was truly news to them (e.g., the '861 source' issue).

One of the agents mentioned a statute as his source of authority (one that wasn't applicable), but wouldn't mention the implementing regulation, nor put his claim into writing to match my affidavits (the Supreme Court has ruled that only the two together create the authority that gives the IRS jurisdiction over a person to assess and collect).

They were silent when I presented a notarized Affidavit of Default for their having failed to complete a form that set forward the material facts. Since they balked and 'dishonored' me, my default answers stand as the presumed facts of the case.

The default affidavit converts the issue into one over facts and evidence (where juries rule) instead of 'tax arguments' (where lawyers and judges rule).

Unfortunately, the head guy slapped an administrative summons on me on the spot, stating that my assertion that "I'll provide info once you establish I'm liable, or a taxpayer" actually meant I must be refusing to cooperate (got it on tape). So, I'll be pleading

the fifth, and submitting additional affidavits.

I also offered a second conditional acceptance, to provide records if they provide 'proof of claim' to show how my 5th amendment rights aren't being violated, provide evidence of my liability, their jurisdiction, etc. I put it all into writing, so when they don't respond I'm in position to issue a second default notice. I'm thinking about also filing a UCC-5 Correction form to 'correct' the Summons, based on the presumed facts established by the AOD.

Some people take their 'third degree' stand on the drug issue, others on war, others on home education. I'm taking it here, in a fight to the finish, and hope others understand.

I take some satisfaction in having not contributed to the leviathan enterprise of recent years, with coerced the fruits of my own labor. Those who wish to consider this road should study the materials on Robert Schulz's site, and also the more comprehensive tactical site of Chris Hansen's (famguardian.org). It would also help to judgement-proof yourself first. Cut off the omnipotent state's financial oxygen, make it accountable, and change may at last result.

No Answers, No Taxes!

"A really efficient totalitarian state would be one in which the all-powerful executive of political bosses and their army of managers control a population of slaves who do not have to be coerced, because they love their servitude. To make them love it is the task assigned, in present-day totalitarian states, to ministries of propaganda, newspaper editors and school-teachers"

-- Aldous Huxley

LIBERTARIAN RELATED ANNOUNCEMENTS, NEWS,**PAST AND PRESENT:****LIBERTARIAN PARTY OF QUEENS COUNTY
HOLDS 2005 CONVENTION**

On Saturday, April 9, 2005, the LPQC held its annual convention at Bohemian Hall, 29-19 24th Ave., in Astoria, Queens, New York City.

At the convention was held the Business session. A Luncheon and Nomination Speeches were attended by the members/visitors.

The NYC LP Nominations were made.

Invited Speakers/Presenters were:

-Audrey Silk (C.L.A.S.H.) and Bernard Goetz. Candidates for the Libertarian Party NYC

Mayoral nomination -John Clifton, Gary Popkin,

Candidates for Borough President - Jak Karako, Thomas Ruks,

Candidates for NYC City Council - announced

-Additional speakers and presentations were announced.

**MEETUP.COM PROVIDES OPPORTUNITY TO NET-
WORK WITH NYLP MEMBERS**

Post-election, local groups are continuing to coalesce. Many LP groups are using Meetup, the tool popularized by Howard Dean, to find other libertarians in their area--some of whom hadn't been in touch with us any other way! Visit ny.lp.org.chapmeet.htm

(Latest info: Meetup.com has fallen in disfavor with many NYLP members, as they recently initiated charges for services that were formerly offered free, and otherwise can be obtained from alternate sources for free.)

**WESTCHESTER, ERIE AND NIAGRA COUNTIES
APPOINTED TEMPORARY LP CHAPTER CHAIRS**

When Larry McEhinney started announcing liberty oriented meetings at Meetup.com, he wasn't even aware of the New York State LP. In short order he was pleased to find a whole state chapter of the Libertarian Party incumbent in NY.

In January 2005, he attended the LPNY state committee meeting in Sloatsburg, NY where he was welcomed on board as a Temporary County Chair for Westchester..

There have been a few meetings in White Plains now, and Mr. McEhinney seeks a possible running for county office this year.

Join the White Plains group at: libertarian.meetup.com/166/

Concurrently, John Wadsworth and Geoff Snyder have been recognized as Temporary County Chairs in Erie and Niagara counties, respectively.

You can find their contact info, along with our other

county contacts, at ny.lp.org/chapmeet.htm

Geoff Snyder is holding Meetups in North Tonowanda, visit libertarian.meetup.com/96/

**THE LP OF MONROE COUNTY (ROCHESTER,
NY) HOLDS ANNUAL CONVENTION**

On Feb 26, 2005. Former NYLP State Chair Albert Dedicke was elected chair of Monroe County Chapter, with Joe Kirchner continuing as Treasurer and Andrew Demers as the group's voting representative on the state committee.

The convention included speakers Peter Christ of LEAP (Law Enforcement Against Prohibition) and Neil Jaschik, from Citizens for NYS Legislative Reform.

ITHACA LP GAINS OFFICIAL CHAPTER STATUS

Buoyed by the surge of interest among local libertarians during the Badnarik debate visit, a group of Ithacans have been meeting regularly since mid-summer. They held their convention in February and enlisted sufficient chapter members to qualify as a new chapter.

Their by laws and a list of their new officers were submitted to the state party and accepted.

Brian Sullivan, the new Vice Chair, of the Ithaca Libertarians noted:

"The alternative and liberal Ithaca Times covered our new Ithaca LP chapter in a feature article in this week's edition."

See www.zwire.com/site/news.cfm?newsid=14064027&BRD=1395&PAG=461&dept_id=216620&rft=6

For more information about their activities, please see: ny.lp.org/lthaca/

**NY LIBERTARIAN CHAIR SUES BLOOMBERG,
CITY TO STOP CAMPAIGN FINANCE PROGRAM**

New York, 2/28/05 – Manhattan Libertarian Party chair Jim Lesczynski filed suit in New York County Supreme Court today to overturn New York City's lavish Campaign Finance Program."Today we are putting Gifford Miller and all the other political welfare queens on notice that we are taking them off the dole," Lesczynski declared. "The city's obscenely extravagant six-to-one matching funds program is not only fiscally irresponsible, but it violates our Constitutional protections against compelled political speech."

Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg, Campaign Finance Board Chairman Frederick A.O. Schwarz, Jr., the Campaign Finance Board, and the City of New York are named as defendants in the complaint. The complaint alleges that compelling taxpayers to bankroll

political speech with which they disagree violates the free speech clauses of the New York State and U.S. Constitutions. Lesczynski is asking the court for a permanent injunction blocking the Campaign Finance Program.

"Libertarians oppose all forms of welfare, whether for individuals, corporations or politicians," Lesczynski said. "I vehemently object to the content of their campaign messages, which inevitably promise more taxes and less freedom, but I object even more to being forced to pay for those repugnant messages."

Copies of the complaint are available upon request to interested members of the media.

MANHATTAN LIBERTARIAN PARTY
455 FDR Drive #B1205
New York, NY 10002
info@manhattanlp.org
Contact: Jim Lesczynski, Chair, 646-387-7591

LP OF MONROE COUNTY (ROCHESTER) HOLDS ANNUAL CONVENTION

On February 26, 2005 the LPMC held its annual convention.

Officers elected:

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evidence argues against this hypothesis.

Time and again the electorate shows a clear pro-government and anti-liberty perspective. The first reaction to any problem is a new law. Laws are even named after kids - Timothy's law, Brenda's law. Laws are starting to take on personalities! Perhaps soon they will get come with their own birth certificates, like those Cabbage Patch dolls that sold well. We even name laws after pets - Buster's Law. We will all feel positively good about obedience.

Isn't this frightening? Name a law. It represents government over liberty. Don't get me wrong. Most people may care about their own liberty, but they don't much care about their neighbor's. People have been conditioned to trust in God and Government. And they do. Inalienable rights to life liberty and the pursuit of happiness are now granted by government, not guaranteed by it.

Given a choice between a good government program or liberty, programs get the vote. Buster's law protects animals. Zoning laws saves us from undesirable windows. Isn't the War On Poverty a good thing? Government schools educate kids. Isn't that good? How can it be bad? Isn't the War On

Chair: Al Dedicke

Treasurer: Joe Kirchner (reelected)

State Rep: Andrew E. Demers (reelected)

36 members attended, including four from the new Ithaca LP.

Speakers: Neil Jaschik from Citizens for NYS Legislative Reform

www.thepeopleofny.com

(new group, Roch based, totally grassroots, pushing Brennan Center reforms.)

Peter Christ of LEAP.

www.leap.cc

Christ also spoke at University of Rochester same day, did full hour radio interview Sunday morning on WHAM (the biggest radio station in town) and was the subject of a front page article in Roch alternative weekly newspaper, published Wed Feb 23. Strangely, the article turned out only one person for our convention, but he happened to be a retired NYS Assemblyman, Gary Proud (R-C), who wants to learn more about us.

Local FOX affiliate taped at convention and broadcast a fair piece on 10PM news.

Drugs stopping bad behavior in the neighborhood? And isn't that a good thing? Doesn't the town benefit when church property is confiscated by eminent domain so a shopping center can be built instead? Who really cares about lost property rights of some when you gain a store for others?

Isn't it all about cost-benefit instead of liberty?

So, if votes go to the Beneficial State, and inalienable rights dependent on community laws, should libertarians not share the negative results of those laws? Shouldn't we point out that the War On Poverty may sound good, but works badly? Social Security seems better than sliced bread until someone points out it is not secure. Not even The State's citizens can afford Medicare in places like Erie County and Waterford. Isn't free public education all benefit until we point out there is little education and it cost a lot?

These are government failures, not market failures. If voters could care less about constitutional values, shouldn't we explain that government benefits are of much less valuable than they like to believe? After all, do 'We, the People' want the expensive underperforming schools we get? If not to us, to whom is The Law accountable? Who

benefits and who pays the costs?

Laws steals choices. They force people to do things they would not want to do if they were free. Other political parties offer only more laws and fewer choices. What do you have when you have no choice? Wasn't America supposed to be about limiting the power of government? Isn't the Social Contract all about voluntary agreement instead of forced obedience?

It's broken. Even the liberal Brennen Center declared our legislature to be the most dysfunctional in the country. Newspapers have reported the sham of legislative accountability to voters. Taxes go up. Laws expand. Debts accumulate. Jobs leave. Shouldn't we libertarians oppose and expose such government failures? Isn't choice and competition more accountable to people than government and laws?

GOVERNMENT MISCHIEF IN THE MONEY SUPPLY. CONT'D FROM PAGE 1

of interest rate increases.

The financial profligacy of the Vietnam era led to the stagflation of the late 1970's and early 1980's, when interest rates peaked at over twenty percent. Could we afford the taxes to pay twenty percent interest on our current debt? If not, what then? More debt to finance the interest? That way lies ruin.

Looking farther back, we are reminded of the founding of the Federal Reserve in 1913, followed not so many years later by the worst depression in American history. Many economists link the first event with the second, and observe how the depression helped to bring on World War II. Evidently, ideas matter.

Libertarians have always faulted our use of fiat money, preferring that it be backed by gold or other commodities. Fiat money has no intrinsic value. That it has any value at all follows only from the use of force; we must use it to pay taxes, and as legal tender. Everyone must pretend that it has value, and so it seems to have it. But there are unintended consequences. Its value slips. There has been far more inflation since 1913 than in the preceding century. Also, the supply of dollars is closely controlled by the federal government; it is not automatically increased by the availability of commodities that can be posted as loan collateral. During the great depression, there were full silos of grain all over the mid-west at the same time that unemployment exceeded twenty percent and people had little money. This phenomenon is described with the economists' gloss: it is difficult to push a string. It might not have been so difficult to push that string if people had been free to devise and use their own currencies. Laws that prohibit the natural order of things also matter.

To give the devil his due, it must be said that commodity currencies also have disadvantages. Financial tycoons, able to affect the market for gold or silver, can wreak havoc for a while. But here, simple remedies come to mind. First of all, world markets are now so large that it is more difficult than ever to corner a market. Secondly, absent the bias favoring a single currency, multiple currencies based on different commodities would allow one to spread the risk, just as one does in investing. In any case, though depressions also preceded 1913, they were not deemed "great depressions". It seems that achieving a great depression requires considerable help from government.

The use of multiple currencies might also pressure government to tax with uniform (flat) rates. Such rates would make sense in any currency. In developing countries, the freedom to use foreign currencies is a familiar popular demand.

The use of a single fiat currency provides far more convenience to government than to the rest of us. Every aspect of such currency is a source of income for government. It benefits from seigniorage in dispensing cash. It charges banks for loans at arbitrary rates it itself sets. Then it borrows to finance its elective wars and other extravagance and taxes us for the interest on the debt. Income tax is progressive, so that with inflation and bracket creep we all start paying at the rates once intended for the wealthy. Inflation rewards debtors, such as the government itself. That it impoverishes others may be regretted, but is likened to an act of God.

Adding insult to injury, whatever mischief is caused by government intervention in currency and the economy is blamed on the "business cycle". The causes of our misfortune are wrongly

assigned by academics, who indoctrinate youth to have blind faith in government, and so in the use of force to solve every problem.

Government engages in the mother of all con games. Economics is reputed to be a mysterious subject, understood only by the initiated. This is because the emperor has no clothes; fiat money is based on a fiction.

We are told that it's just like the gold standard, or the pound sterling, but without the gold, or the silver. The regulation of fiat money requires artificial manipulation of the interest rate, causing boom and bust, full employment and unemployment, just to maintain a stable currency. This is surely an unnecessary inconvenience.

Money is supposed to be an accounting device, used to measure and enable economic activity. Fiat money, unable to preserve its value without

wrecking the economy it is supposed to serve, has become the master rather than the servant.

Three possible steps would put the voter in more direct control of the government.

First: permit private currencies in all matters including taxation.

Second: provide popular control of tax rates and government debt limits.

Third: measures such as the popular repeal of statutes would also be consistent with our philosophy of limited government. Such planks in our platform serve to define some of our goals in a clear and attractive way.

Most of the amendments to the United States Constitution that succeeded had a populist aspect. If we can frame our goals in a populist light, empowering the individual voter to better control government, we will attract new support.

6 Weeks After the Election Part 2, Cont'd from Page 1

workers... We need local organizations of activists: People who do something publicly on a regular basis: Via LTEs, as demonstration participants, by civil disobedience, in art and cartoons and jokes and songs, we need to do things which the public might approvingly notice.

Local organizations provide human warmth to spawn such projects. They attract friends and friends of friends. Some meetings should occur in people's homes, and should be accompanied by pleasurable activity.

I consider it absurd to pay petitioners to collect signatures in order to secure us a spot on the ballot. If we have so few dedicated supporters that paid petitioners are necessary then running candidates seems futile. After all, what is required to collect a secure 25K nominating petition signatures? Only five hundred people each of whom collects fifty, i.e., only one day's work from each of 500. Lacking five hundred people willing to offer one day's work to our common cause, what hope can we have? Realistically, not much. We will not win significant elections. The zombie voters vastly outnumber us. They vote by spinal reflex, tribally, for the political parties supported by their ancestors.

But we ought to start getting totals consistently above 5% if our efforts are to be noticed enough to make them worthwhile. We need that much heft to awaken our country. We need to understand that campaigns for high office, even when honorably supported by cash contributions, as mine certainly was, cannot run effectively as one-person shows. They must be team efforts.

The StateComm should be able to access dispersed local groups which will effectively host and provide media contacts for a candidate when he visits their locales. Otherwise, the candidate's travel is unprofitable. But a candidate for statewide office, who never travels the state, is unlikely to be taken seriously.

The Green Party and the Libertarian Party have common political interests although their ideologies clash. But the two parties should work together to improve access to the ballot, to media exposure, and to televised candidate debates, and as in the Ohio recount effort they should strive conjointly to assure honest elections.

The GP and the LP can help each other in other ways as well. Since the two parties do disagree on a variety of fundamentals, their public contention via civilized debates might

arouse the people's interest in political ideas. Hopefully, they might thus be induced to reflect upon what a desirable society might comprise, how to achieve it, and what pitfalls are predictable from differing approaches to such a society. These debates ought to occur continually, and not merely when an election is in the offing. Reason gets drowned out during election seasons by costly noisy hype and by the media-cultivated horse-race model of political thought. I thank all of you for your help and for your friendship. I apologize for my having fallen into a cantankerous funk in the weeks immediately following November Second. Foolishly high hopes lead to frustration, and a frustrated old man seeks scapegoats. I was among the few who expected that the results would be significantly better than they were. And I fear that I insulted people who deserved better treatment from me.

I disagree with those who seem to believe we need to run a Billy Graham or a Britney Spears in order to obtain a high vote total. I disagree also with dismantling our platform. The present LP Platform is one a party like ours needs, providing a solid surface beneath our own feet.

Not many non-LPers read the LP platform. It serves mainly to remind us exactly who we are and where we stand. I believe we ought not try to attract people who are at odds with our platform to join the LP. If someone joins us, it should be because she approves of what we are. We are not obliged, and we would be unwise, to try to become the sort of politicians whom nonlibertarians admire.

What we need most, and lack, is a decent megaphone. The media is such a megaphone. We should woo the media. It might be helpful to prospect for LP members among groups of journalism professionals. In any case, good LTEs could serve us well. Anyone thoughtful and articulate can write a good LTE in half an hour. Our party is loaded with thoughtful and articulate people. Let us write and speak to the world, and not only to one another. Let us open civil discourse with those who are not yet libertarians, but who share our love for ideas and principles. Such lively sorts are legion, especially among the young.

(Special thanks to Bruce Merbaum, who came out of seemingly nowhere to offer his assistance,

and arranged two radio interviews for me in the Westchester area)

THE NEW YORK STATE LIBERTARIAN PARTY HELD ITS ANNUAL CONVENTION

ON APRIL 22-24, 2005.

The convention was attended by over 80 prominent members of the Party, who partook in the festivities, banquets, presentations and Party business events. See <http://ny.lp.org/official/convention/> for more details.

New Party officials were elected by ballot of those attending, and future LPNY events and directions were discussed at the convention NYLP Committee meetings. Below are just a few of the events and presentations that occurred at the convention. Some of the highlights are recounted below:

Our Party Matters



NYLP Chair John Clifton, Addresses the Business Meeting of NYLP Members

Jeff Shapiro, NYLP Legislative Director, Addresses the Members on efforts and developments in our NYS legislative watch, and the Lobbying for enactment and amendment of NYS laws toward a more Libertarian government.



Robert Butler, contracted director of our membership drive and Main Office handling, speaks to the members on the services he will provide the NYLP.



Dr. Thomas Stevens, College Outreach Coordinator, Addresses the Members, and reports on the developments and progresses of the NYLP College/ Student outreach program.



James Ostrowski orates on the unchecked graft, political machinations, corruption and cronyism running rampant in Buffalo NY.

Dr. Jennifer Daniels, relays to conventioners, the corrupt, and hypocritical state regulatory sanctions she incurred for having maintained the privacy of her patients against government privacy invasions.



Elections Held of the new NYLP State Committee are held
(See Pages Below for New Appointments to NYLP Committee)





Earl Callahan relays the economic and industrial advantages of hemp products over existing crops.



John Gatto reads his prepared statement and analysis of the public education system forced upon American chil-

Bob Schulz, prominent citizen activist and proponent of federal income tax reform/abolition, maps out clearly the machinations and Constitutional violations the IRS and other taxing authorities perpetrate upon American citizens.



New York Libertarian Elected Committee Officials

from Left to Right:

Donald Silberger, Thomas Ruks, Audrey Capozzi, John Clifton, Gary Donoyan, M Carling, Bonnie Scott

NYLP Committee Party Officials Election

Results:

Chair

John Clifton

mrjclifton@yahoo.com

Vice-Chair

Bonnie Scott

rabbit@cownow.com

Vice-Chair

Thomas Ruks

trukslp@yahoo.com



Robert Butler addresses the NYLP Committee on Membership Relations & Initial Contacts

Secretary

Blay Tarnoff

LPNY@eblay.com

Treasurer

Werner Hetzner

whetzner@mac.com



Our Party Matters

At-Large Committee Members

M Carling
M@idiom.com

Andrew Gardner
AndrewGardner@twcny.rr.com

Audrey Capozzi
audeo@aol.com
631-286-7631

Gary Donoyan
gdonoyan1@123XYZoptonline.net
(516) 627-6164

Don Stillwagon
dfs8@123XYZbuffalo.edu

The NYLP Committee officially met to plan Party business at the Convention.
Abstracted minutes of those minutes follow:

Our Party Matters

The annual convention was called to order by chair John Clifton at 10:45am on April 23, 2005. There was no objection to the proposed agenda of

- Approve Agenda
- Reports from Officers
- Election of Officers
- Resolutions

We then continued with some reports from party officers and directors.

Gary Donoyan, LPNY Political Director, said that just as we can use the courts to get government to follow the rules, we can test the major parties' compliance in the political arena as well. We need to create an effective organization to do that, and his task is to develop strategy, issues, and communication. His report focuses only on the first of those.

We face four challenges:

1. the duopoly of the Democrats and Republicans
- 2 the fusion parties--the Conservative and Working Families, which are mainly just 'second lines'
3. the IP's Golisano, who will eventually retire or die
4. the Greens, who have the benefit of four years as a recognized "Party" up to 2002.

He suggests 5 projects:

1. Project 62 monthly meetings: we have 8 chapters now, and 6 Temporary County Chairs
2. Project 63 in 2005: at least one electoral race in each county, plus NYC Mayor
3. Project State Plus 29 in 2006 -- having statewide candidates plus 29 Congressional candidates, many of which are Cross-County races
4. Project 4-3-2-1:

In turn, in the Governor's race, to beat the...

Greens in 2006, to come in fourth Independence Party in 2010, to come in third Democrats in 2014, to come in second Republicans in 2018, to win the Governors seat

5. Project Village, Town and City: to identify winnable local races

Werner Hetzner then gave the Treasurers report. Most of our income comes from UMP payments, that is, shared dues revenue from the national LP. Last year's convention was about \$5,000, most of it recouped through receipts and donations. The newsletter cost about \$1500 per issue, or about \$6,000 for the year.

Petitioning to get on the ballot cost about \$10,000 of our money and \$32,000 of money donated by the National party (and George Phillies's PAC). Administrative costs were mainly for one prospecting letter. At the end of March, we had about \$14,500 in

the bank, compared to about \$24,000 at the end of 2003 (before our petitioning drive). Our financial information is filed with the NYS Board of Elections.

To see it:

<http://www.elections.state.ny.us/finance/recipientstext.htm>
Look for: Libertarian Party

FilerID: A12707

Our new Legislative Director, Jeff Shapiro, spoke about some plans for the coming year.

1. He'd like us to support a tax-limiting initiative (TABOR). Colorado, which has one, has reduced taxes more than any other state, and had the best income growth among states.

2. He informed us about the New York Freedom of Information Act changes coming up (The Faster FOI Act) that set a timeframe for the government to respond to requests for information--there's previously been no deadlines.

3. He talked about the possibilities for a Constitutional Amendment and about a bill sponsored by Assemblyman Hooker.

LPNY College Outreach Coordinator Dr. Tom Stevens spoke next. He emphasized that 2006 is an important year for us. He congratulated Don Stillwagon's efforts, which have resulted in a 10-member group at SUNY Buffalo, and we applauded Don, who was present. The NY College Libertarian contact list is kept at <http://www.libertarianfreedomcouncil.org/nyfacstud.htm>

In the interest of time, reports from other appointed directors weren't continued at this time, and we moved on the nomination and election of officers.

Nominations for chair:

Gary Donoyan nominated John Clifton for chair. Bonnie Scott declined a nomination. John won against NOTA by a vote of 19 to zero.

Nominations for vice chair:

Bonnie Scott was nominated. Thomas Ruks was nominated. Blay Tarnoff was nominated but declined. Two vice chairs were elected by writing two names on a ballot.

Bonnie Scott received 17 votes.

Thomas Ruks received 15 votes.

NOTA received 2 votes.

Bonnie Scott and Thomas Ruks were elected.

Nominations for Treasurer:

Werner Hetzner was nominated by Thomas Ruks. Bill McMillen was nominated by Gary Donoyan, but Bill declined. Werner won against NOTA by a vote of 17 to 3.

Nominations for Secretary:

Libertarian Party of New York

2005 Convention Speakers



John Taylor Gatto

John Taylor Gatto was born in Monongahela, Pennsylvania, works in New York City, and is starting a retreat on an 128-acre piece of wild land in beautiful Oxford, NY. He climaxed his teaching career as New York State Teacher of the Year after being named New York City Teacher of the Year on three occasions. He quit teaching on the

OP ED page of the Wall Street Journal in 1991 while still New York State Teacher of the Year, claiming that he was no longer willing to hurt children. He now travels around the world speaking about school reform.



James Ostrowski

James Ostrowski is a trial and appellate lawyer and libertarian author from Buffalo, New York. He's the libertarian founder of "Free Buffalo," a thriving new reform group. His articles have appeared in the Wall Street Journal, Buffalo News,

Cleveland Plain Dealer and Legislative Gazette. His policy studies have been published by the Hoover Institution at Stanford University, the Ludwig von Mises Institute at Auburn University, and the Cato Institute in Washington, D.C. His articles have been used as course materials at numerous colleges including Brown, Rutgers and Stanford. Presently, he is an adjunct scholar at the Ludwig von Mises Institute and a columnist for two of the largest political websites in the world, Mises.org and LewRockwell.com.

Panel on the (Upstate) Economy

Dr. Jennifer Daniels received 8% of the vote for Mayor of Syracuse in 2001, running on both the Green and Libertarian lines, and won one of the city's election districts. Daniels opened her family practice at 3100 S. Salina St. 14 years ago. She had her medical license suspended for failing to provide the authorities with all her patients' records, but has successfully won back the right to practice. She will be speaking on healthcare funding problems, particularly Medicaid.

Earl Callahan is a Green from Chenango County who has been making presentations to Central NY farmers about the possibilities of industrial hemp. He and his associates have lobbied the Republican Assembly Task Force on the state of agriculture in New York, statehouse leaders, and Congressman Sherwood Boehlert, among others, to try to re-establish a textile industry in NYS. He says, "Our representatives must be able to explain to farmers why industrial hemp cannot be grown here."

The convention is being held April 23, 2005 at the Holiday Inn at Carrier Circle in Syracuse, NY. More information can be found at <http://ny.lp.org/official/convention/>

Vin Suprynowicz is no stranger to the East Coast, having started off his writing career at the alternative weekly Hartford Advocate, and scoring a national break in the early eighties at The Providence Eagle with a cover story on the Reagan administration's plan to build the "Star Wars" missile defense system. Vin now works as a columnist and editorial writer at Nevada's largest newspaper, the "Las Vegas Review-Journal." His books and biweekly columns cover subjects from "Homeland Security" and eminent-domain property seizures to government medical scams. Vin's latest book, his first novel, "The Black Arrow" is due for release April 15, 2005.

Vin Suprynowicz



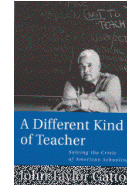
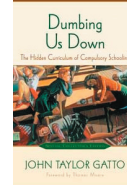
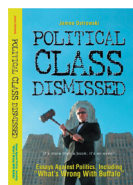
Robert Schulz

Robert Schulz is a former Libertarian Party candidate for Governor, and most recently has been busy with the organizations he founded, the We The People Foundation for Constitutional Education, and the We The People Congress. For over two decades, Bob has been occupied with an abiding concern about wrongful governmental behavior and has been confronting these improprieties and conflicts in the courts. Bob has performed the research, prepared the briefs and argued cases in the highest state and federal courts. At least one hundred fourteen decisions have been rendered in cases he has brought against unconstitutional and illegal governmental behavior, often with other citizen-plaintiffs.



Mark Bitz is President and CEO of Plainville Turkey Farms in Plainville, New York. He calculates that his \$20-million-a-year business incurs \$600,000 extra in expenses--higher workers' compensation, energy and health insurance costs and property taxes--just because they are located in New York State. He calls Upstate NY a sinking ship, and he's being heard in Albany.

Matthew Maguire is Director of Communications for New York State's Public Policy Institute, the research affiliate of the Business Council of NYS. He is the author of their new blog, UpstateBlog.net, which cover's New York's politics and economy. He also conducts various surveys on public-policy questions, and manages and conducts philanthropic fund-raising activities for the Public Policy Institute. The BCNYS is working to build an economic renaissance for New York State and its people.



LIBERTARIAN CONVENTION APRIL 23, cont'd

HOME SCHOOLING AND LOST LIBERTIES: GATTO, SUPRYNOWICZ

John Taylor Gatto, famed proponent of homeschooling and staunch advocate for the separation of school and state, will be conducting a "free to the public" afternoon address at three o'clock at the Libertarian Party of New York's annual convention in Syracuse on Saturday, April 23. Mr. Gatto is a former New York State Teacher of the Year and author of books such as *The Underground History of U.S. Public Education*. His address will include updates on developments in legislation and trends impacting homeschoolers throughout New York State.

His talk will be followed by an evening presentation by Vin Suprynowicz, nationally syndicated Libertarian columnist and assistant editorial page editor of the *Las Vegas Review-Journal* in Nevada. Suprynowicz will discuss his new book, *The Black Arrow*, and outline the erosion of human freedom, choice and privacy that has accelerated since 9/11 and the passage on the Patriot Act. His speech will conclude an exciting weekend where LPNY honors its activists and supporters, and launches plans for building the party throughout the 2005-2006 election cycle.

Prior to the Gatto speech, a panel discussion of the upstate economy will be held at 1:30pm, featuring Mark Bitz of Plainville Turkey Farms; Dr. Jennifer Daniels, a former LP/Green Candidate for Mayor of Syracuse; Earl Callahan, an advocate for growing Industrial Hemp in New York; and Matthew Maguire of the Business Council of New York State. The panel discussion, like the Gatto speech, is free and open to the public.

Other convention highlights will include: keynote speaker

Convention Minutes Cont'd from Page 14

Audrey Capozzi was nominated but declined.
Andrew Gardner was nominated but declined.
Blay Tarnoff was nominated and reluctantly accepted.
Tom Stevens was nominated but declined.
Brian Sullivan was nominated but declined.
Blay won against NOTA.

Nomations for At-Large:

Don Stillwagon was nominated by Tom Stevens.
Tom Stevens was nominated by Thomas Ruks.
Andrew Gardner nominated himself.
Audrey Capozzi was nominated.
M Carling was nominated by Bonnie Scott.
Gary Triestman was nominated.
Gary Donoyan was nominated.

Thomas Ruks made a motion to suspend the rules to allow short speeches from the candidates. Gary Donoyan seconded. The convention voted in favor of the motion.

Five At-Large members were elected by writing five names on a ballot. Twenty-four ballots were cast. Ballot counters found two spoiled ballots, and the chair and the convention accepted their recommendation to follow the apparent intent of the voters. In one case, NOTA was dropped from position 2 in favor of counting the other four candidates placed on the ballot. In the other case, the first 5 candidate votes were counted (they differed in order from the list as nominated), dropping the last two names on the list.

The At-Large results were:

- * Don Stillwagon 20
- * Andrew Gardner 20
- * Audrey Capozzi 19
- * M Carling 17
- * Gary Donoyan 16
- Gary Triestman 11

and leading "tax honesty" advocate Robert Schulz of the We the People Congress and Foundation, on their Right to Petition lawsuit; and luncheon speaker Libertarian attorney James Ostrowski, author of *Political Class Dismissed* and organizer of the Free Buffalo movement.

SUNY PROFESSOR, TAX HONESTY LEADER TO BE HONORED FOR LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AND HEROISM AT LIBERTARIAN CONVENTION

The Libertarian Party of New York presented veteran political activists Donald Silberger and Dave Hoesley with Lifetime Achievement awards at its annual state convention on Saturday, April 23rd in Syracuse, NY. Silberger is an associate professor at SUNY-New Paltz, and was 2004 LPNY candidate for US Senate. Both Silberger and Hoesley are noted for their petitioning efforts over the years to promote Libertarian candidates and ideals.

Keynote speaker Robert Schulz will be awarded LPNY's John Perry Award for Heroism, named after the late policeman and Libertarian activist who died on 9/11 while rescuing occupants in the World Trade Center. Schulz is a former (1994) LPNY candidate for Governor, who heads the We the People Congress and Foundation, an organization devoted to restoring constitutional liberty and fighting government fraud. At considerable personal cost, he has mounted major national legal efforts to combat illegal enforcement of the income tax and other abuses of the IRS. He addressed the convention on the latest developments in the WTP Right to Petition for Grievance lawsuit, on questions of legal tax liability.

For more information on WTP, see <http://givemeliberty.org>.

Thomas Stevens 8

A majority was required for election, and the top five candidates (denoted above with an *) were elected during the first round.

Bill Mc Millen moved--pursuant to at-ease discussions --to have the incoming state committee investigate the recent dues increase, secret ballot and lack of UMP increase for the state. The motion passed unanimously.

The convention moved to adjourn at 12:30.

During the various ballot-counting sessions (all votes require a ballot), the convention stood at ease and had discussion about issues facing the party.

Summaries:

1 - upcoming conventions: Albany next year. Ithaca in 2009? (Ithaca would be happy to do it sooner.) We shall plan on the last Saturday of April for the foreseeable future, to avoid Passover, Easter and other holidays.

2 - Possible resolution on the dues increase from national, given that:

- it was done in a secret ballot- it doubled the fees for renewals and that it didn't increase UMP payments to the state.

3 - supporting the Real Reform organization, which seeks to reform NY's drug laws

4 - Bonnie Scott, the state party's webmaster, reported on the web progress over the year, especially in the area of regional blogging and regional templates for new chapters. The full report plus the 'local affiliate template' were handed out and are available here:

<http://ny.lp.org/official/reports/2004-2005-web.htm>

NYLP CHAPTER-BY-CHAPTER ACTIVITIES

A SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES, DEVELOPMENTS AND PROGRESSES MADE BY THE NYLP CHAPTERS AND THEIR CONTACTS, AS REPORTED TO FREENY BY THE CHAPTER'S THEMSELVES. SEE OTHER ACTIVITIES DETAILED IN ANNOUNCEMENTS SECTION THAT MAY BE TOO VOLUMINOUS TO REPRODUCE HERE. IF YOU ARE (OR WILL BE) A LIBERTARIAN AND YOUR PART OF THE STATE IS NOT REPRESENTED YET, CALL (516)SOS-GOVT TO GET HELP TO SET ONE UP.

Capital District

1marketsquare.com/CapLP/Main.shtml

Albany and Vicinity

Jeff Russell, JRuss1776@aol.com

518-371-3641

The Capital District Libertarian Party meets the 2nd Tuesday of each month at the Branch Restaurant on Maiden Lane in Albany. Meetings start at 6 PM.

Central New York

Onondaga, Oswego, Madison, Cortland

Kevin Delaney, kdzrd@aol.com

Please contact for info and meetings schedule

Western New York

(Includes Allegany, Chautauqua, Wyoming, Cattaraugus Counties)

John Wadsworth

Buffalo, NY

716-886-1919

Please contact John Wadsworth in Buffalo if you'd like to get involved.

Elmira-area Libertarians

Chemung and Steuben Counties

Andrew Gardner

Headboy77@stny.rr.com

Please join the Ithaca LP mailing list for now, but Andrew is planning on organizing this area separately.

Erie/Niagara Counties

Dr. John Wadsworth

716-886-1919

jlwads@concentric.net

John had been having meetings regularly. Please contact John to be put on his email list.

Hudson Valley

(Includes Dutchess, Orange, and Ulster Counties)

Don Silberger, DonSilberger@hvc.rr.com

845-255-8819

Peter Carl

845-679-8340

P.O. Box 66, Lake Hill, NY 12448

Gary Treistman, garyonthenet@yahoo.com

845-679-4770

POB 563, Bearsville, NY 12409

ny.lp.org/HudsonValley

Meets "religiously" on the first Tuesday of each month at 7:00 PM at the College Diner in New Paltz, one block east of the thruway exit on route 299. We love good conversation, and discuss/plan activist goals at our meetings.

The Hudson Valley chapter has established its own website at www.HudsonValleyLP.org. It was started to serve as a gateway for the local public to be introduced to libertarian thinking. Occasional advertisements in the press provide the URL. It will serve other purposes according to the on-going needs and wishes of the chapter.

Ithaca LP in Tompkins County

Brian Sullivan

bsulliv1@twcny.rr.com

(607) 277-5085

ny.lp.org/Ithaca

Ithaca Libertarians will meet the third Friday of every month at Bool's Flower Shop, 209 N. Aurora St., Ithaca 5:15pm, and as needed. Join the Ithaca LP mailing list to see what's on the agenda.

Kings County (a.k.a. Brooklyn)

Gary Popkin, gary_popkin@hotmail.com

Meetings are held on the third Wednesday of each month at 7:00 p.m. at the Park Cafe, 92 Seventh Avenue, at Union Street.

Libertarian Party of Monroe County

www.RochesterLP.org

(Includes Genesee, Orleans, Wayne, Livingston, and Wayne counties)

Stephen Healey

Call 585-529-9354 or visit

www.rochesterLP.org and mnylp.netsville.com

email: easterof1916@nospam.runbox.com

The chapter meets on the third Wednesday of each month for strategy sessions. Call for location.

LP of Monroe County (Rochester)

On Feb 26, 2005 the LPMC held its Annual Convention.

Officers elected:

Chair: Al Dedicke

Treasurer: Joe Kirchner (reelected)

State Rep: Andrew E. Demers (reelected)

New York County (a.k.a. Manhattan)

Manhattan Libertarian Party

42 Peck Slip #4B

New York, NY 10038

www.ManhattanLP.org

Jim Lesczynski

info@manhattanlp.org

(212) 252-3449

Manhattan is now leading the state in terms of candidates run each year. Join the lpny_manhattan mailing list to start contributing your ideas about how to make it work. Stop in at their monthly meetings from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. on the second Wednesday of the month, at the Ukrainian East Village Restaurant, 140 Second Avenue between 9th Street and St. Mark's. The first hour is a business meeting, and it will start PROMPTLY. The second hour is educational/social with dinner and guest speaker.

You'll also see many of us on the first Thursday of each month at the Junto lecture series, currently held at the Shelburne Murray Hill Hotel, in the Ballroom, Main Floor. 303 Lexington Avenue at 37th St., five blocks south of Grand Central Terminal. Subway: 4,5,6,7 to 42nd St.-Grand Central or B,D,F,N,Q,R,V,W to 34th St.-Herald Square.

The meetings get started around 7, and are subject to frequent interruptions from the host.

Nassau County Libertarian Party

Vincent O'Neill (516) 676-8029
ny.lp.org/Nassau/

At its February meeting, the Nassau County LP decided to change the date of its monthly meeting to the second Thursday of each month. Meetings will continue to be held at 8:00 p.m., at T.G.I. Friday's in Manhasset, 1445 Northern Boulevard at Shelter Rock Road. A reserved area to the left of the front door).

Richard Cooper has decided to step down as Nassau LP chair. Until we hold a county convention, Gary Donoyan will serve as Acting Chair.

North County Libertarians

Bonnie Scott

rabbit@cownow.com

Jefferson, St. Lawrence, Franklin, Clinton, Essex, Lewis, Herkimer and Hamilton Counties

North Country Libertarians are spread out across a lot of land, but a newsletter has been started, and planning for 2005 is underway. Join our mailing list lpny_northern at YahooGroups.com.

Libertarian Party of Queens County

www.lpqc.org

ny.lp.org/LPQC

Frank Warren

lpqc@lpqc.org

info: (718) 707-1421

John Procida

proreal@nyc.rr.com

Meetings are held on the 2nd Saturday of each month, from 10:30 am to 12:30 pm, at Bohemian Hall, 29-19 24th Avenue, Astoria, Queens (Subway: one block north of the Astoria Boulevard N train station, just west of 31st Street.)

Southern Tier Libertarians

Broome County

Michael Lurie

mlurie@nospam.stny.rr.com

607-797-7162

Binghamton, Vestal, Endicott: get in contact with Michael Lurie, a long-time libertarian who has previously arranged libertarian meetings at the Vestal Public Library.

Suffolk County

Barry Loberfeld, BLoberfe@suffolk.lib.ny.us

516-543-3510

Contact Barry for meeting times and location.

Westchester County

Larry McElhinney

Larry McElhinney has stepped forward to help organize a group in Westchester! To find out about meeting times and locations, please see the Westchester Libertarians Meetup: libertarian.meetup.com/166/

College/School Chapters and Contacts:**A note from the LPNY College Outreach Coordinator:**

If you work or go to school at a college or university in New York State and would like to be a designated contact for the Libertarian Party, I would appreciate your contacting me at the E-Mail address noted below.

Perhaps you are a professor who would be willing to serve as an Advisor to a College Libertarian chapter. Perhaps you are a student who is interested in leading a Libertarian Freedom Coalition, an alliance of students who agree with us on a broad range of issues.

Perhaps you are someone who would be willing to put up a notice seeking to identify students who would agree to serve as officers of a Libertarian Party organization at your school.

If you can help out in any capacity, please let me know.

Dr. Thomas Robert Stevens

LPNY College Outreach Coordinator

YRSpartan@aol.com

The following are confirmed contacts for high school, college and university chapters of the Libertarian Party in New York State:

(Note: Editor was not provided with full email addresses for these contacts, and the info is presented as submitted)

ALFRED STATE COLLEGE

Contact: Dr. Timothy Woodcock

De4tw@aol.com

Woodcot@alfredstate.edu

585-610-0149

AVOCA CENTRAL SCHOOL

Avoca, New York (Steuben County)

Contact: Luke Slayton

lts20stl@hotmail.com

COLUMBIA COLLEGE LIBERTARIANS

COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY

Contact: Marco Zappacosta (President)

mlz2101@columbia.edu

Additional Contact: Horace Grant

horace.grant@aya.yale.edu

libertarians@columbia.edu

Website: <http://www.columbia.edu/cu/libertarians/>

Marco Zappacosta is a Psychology & Political Science major at Columbia College who plans to graduate in the year 2007.

COLUMBIA LAW SCHOOL LIBERTARIANS

COLUMBIA LAW SCHOOL

COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY

Contact: Marco Zappacosta

mlz2101@columbia.edu

Damian Najman asked to be removed as a contact for the Columbia Law School Libertarians even though he serves as Co-Chair of the group. It has been explained to me that there really are no officers and that this group was registered so that the Columbia College Libertarians could hold meetings at the Law School and that any law students who wish to attend meetings would go to the meetings of the Columbia College Libertarians. As a result, Marco Zappacosta has agreed to be the listed contact for this organization.

GRADUATE SCHOOL OF ARTS & SCIENCES
COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY
Contact: Horace Grant
horace.grant@aya.yale.edu
Horace Grant is studying United States History at Columbia University's GSAS and anticipates graduating in 2009.

MAILMAN SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH
COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY
Contact: Adam Scavone
as2491@columbia.edu
Adam is a graduate student in the Department of Sociomedical Sciences at the Mailman School of Public Health at Columbia University. He has been focused on drug reform and has been active with Columbia's Students for Sensible Drug Policy.

COLLEGE LIBERTARIANS
OF CORNELL UNIVERSITY
CORNELL UNIVERSITY
Contact: Curry Taylor
ctaylo12@twcny.rr.com
Additional Contact: Andrew Gardner
Headboy77@s...
Curry Taylor is a Graduate Student of Condensed Matter

Physics. The chapter in the process of obtaining formal recognition from the school. Andrew Gardner, who is listed as an additional contact, is an employee of Cornell University.

ELMIRA COLLEGE
Contact: Dr. Bryan C. McCannon
Assistant Professor of Economics
bcmccannon@yahoo.com
Has agreed to be our contact and to be Faculty Advisor to any chapter forming at that school

FORDHAM UNIVERSITY
Mr. Langley is a student at Fordham School of Law which is located at Fordham University, Lincoln Center Campus. He plans to get a Libertarian group up and running at his school this Fall, 2005.

HUNTER COLLEGE HIGH SCHOOL
Contact: Jonathan Salzinger
jsalzinger@hotmail.com
Cell Phone: 212-920-1010

ITHACA COLLEGE
Contact: Prof. Kim Gregson
Rm 328 Park Hall
Park School of Communications
Ithaca College
Ithaca, NY 14850
607-274-7348
kgregson@ithaca.edu
I teach in the Radio-TV department

MANHASSET SECONDARY SCHOOL
Contact: Leon Donoyan

Idonoyan@optonline.net
Cell: 516-330-5563

NEW YORK CITY COLLEGE OF TECHNOLOGY
Contact: Prof. Gary Popkin
gary_popkin@hotmail.com
Professor of Computer Systems Technology
Prof. Popkin has agreed to be our contact and to be Faculty Advisor to a chapter organizing at that school.

TISCH SCHOOL OF THE ARTS
NEW YORK UNIVERSITY
Contact: Mackenzie Wilson Condon
mwc228@nyu.edu
Mackenzie Condon is an undergraduate student

at New York University's Tisch School of the Arts where she is a theater major.

ROCHESTER INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY
Contact: Dawn Pepin
dap6401@rit.edu
Dawn Pepin is currently trying to find other interested students in order to organize a chapter at her school.

ROCKLAND COMMUNITY COLLEGE
Contact: Jeff Bennett
jeffiek@earthlink.net or jeffiek@excite.com or jeffiek9@yahoo.com

UNIVERSITY AT ALBANY COLLEGE LIBERTARIANS
SUNY ALBANY
Contact: Nicholas Gallo (President)
anticrombieduck@yahoo.com
UACL E-mail Address: UACL@Albany.edu
UACL Website Address: <http://www.albany.edu/~uacl/>
Mr. Gallo is President of the University at Albany College Libertarians (UACL). His group has been granted Temporary Approval by the school's student association. Mr. Gallo is a sophomore in the business program, who is minoring in history.

SUNY BINGHAMTON
Contact: Dylan Lainhart
masterdlx@stny.rr.com
Dylan Lainhart entered SUNY Binghamton as a Freshman in September, 2004. After getting adjusted, he plans to organize a LP chapter at the school. Prof. Charles Goodman (an Assistant Professor of Philosophy and AAAS; (607) 777-2610; cgoodman@binghamton.edu) may be available to serve as Faculty Advisor.

THE COLLEGE LIBERTARIANS OF BROCKPORT
SUNY BROCKPORT
Contact: Adam Chamberlain
kangol@novocon.net
acha0102@brockport.edu
585-395-4665
Junior at SUNY Brockport

Random Observation

Did anybody else notice that amazing similarity between Jon Binet Ramsey's parents, and the parents of Joel Goodsen (the character played by Tom Cruise in Risky Business). The resemblance is uncanny. I don't know if this means anything, but thought I should mention it. .
Anonymous .

SUNY BUFFALO

Contact: Don Stillwagon
donstillwagon@yahoo.com, or dfs8@buffalo.edu
716-645-4475

Cell: 1-845-399-6905

Dorm: 1-845-255-8819

Don Stillwagon is the President of a formally recognized College Libertarians organization that meets weekly and has over 10 active members. Mr. Stillwagon was also recently elected at the LPNY Convention in Syracuse as a voting At-Large Member of the State Committee..

COLLEGE LIBERTARIANS OF SUNY FREDONIA
SUNY FREDONIA

Contact: Aaron Stadler (President)
groovefeeling@hotmail.com
Aaron is a Music Performance Major. His applied instrument is guitar. His organization has been formally recognized by his school and regular meetings are held on campus.

SUNY NEW PALTZ

Contact: Prof. Don Silberger
donsilberger@hvc.rr.com

Prof. Silberger, who is an Associate Professor of Mathematics and the Director of the M.A. Program in Mathematics, has agreed to serve as Faculty Advisor to any college libertarian group which seeks to form at this school

TRINITY HIGH SCHOOL

Contact: Devin D. Gould
theuncensored@aol.com
646-391-3264

Devin is a new contact identified at the LPNY State Convention held on April 24, 2004.

UR LIBERTARIANS

UNIVERSITY OF ROCHESTER

Contact: Eric Miller
Sophomore, Economics Major
CPU Box 276577
River Campus
Rochester, NY 14627
em003m@m...
Eric Miller is planning on holding meetings on campus every Wednesday.

THE REPUBLICAN PARTY, IS IT POISED FOR A MASS EXODUS?

Talk is Cheap; Now that the Republicans own the American Government, will they deliver on their promises? Or will we soon see the largest emigration of Party membership to date, from the Republican Party to the Libertarian Party??

by Chuck Muth

President, Citizen Outreach

(Originally delivered to the California LP Convention, Feb 19, 2005)

Thank you. Let me begin my remarks by predicting that in the next two years, Republicans are going to blow it.

When Ronald Reagan was in the White House, we were told government couldn't be restrained because Democrats controlled Congress.

When Republicans gained control of both Houses of Congress in 1994, we were told nothing could be done because the Democrats controlled the White House.

When in 2000 Republicans gained control of the White House AND the Congress, we were told that President Bush's victory over Al Gore, as well as the GOP majorities in the House and Senate, were too slim.

And then Republicans lost control of the Senate when "Jumping" Jim Jeffords switched parties.

But after last November's elections, Republicans not only control the White House, the Senate and the House of Representatives, they now control Congress with SIGNIFICANT majorities. So the question conservatives are rightly asking today is, "If not now, when?"

Well, now IS the time. There are no more excuses for Republicans. There is no more tomorrow. It's time to put up or shut up.

If the GOP doesn't deliver...and I seriously doubt, based on past experience, that they will...many limited-government Republicans will be seriously looking for an alternative to the GOP in 2006. And this will present a tremendous and historical window of political opportunity for the Libertarian Party. That's what I want to talk to you about today.

But first, let me address directly some objections which were raised about my being here today. Some folks have accused me of being nothing more than a partisan Republican shill who is going to try to persuade you to leave the Libertarian Party and join the GOP. Well, those people obviously aren't subscribers to my daily online newsletter.

The fact is, I regularly skewer Republicans, often with reckless abandon, for their inconsistency or outright failure to uphold constitutional, limited-government principles. I guarantee you I am NOT on the White House Christmas party list.

That being said, it's also true that I've been EXTREMELY critical of

the Libertarian Party over the years. Not so much the libertarian philosophy, but some of your party's political actions.

I am a "small l" libertarian. I want limited-government candidates to get elected to office. I couldn't care less if they're Republican or Libertarian. In fact, I've conducted candidate training programs all across the country for almost ten years now and they have ALWAYS been open to Libertarian Party candidates. I've trained hundreds of Libertarian Party candidates and it wouldn't surprise me if a few are here with us today.

I'll also point out that when I was a GOP consultant in Nevada back in 1998, I negotiated an arrangement for the GOP not to field a candidate in a particular state assembly race in order to give the Libertarian Party candidate a clear shot at the Democrat incumbent.

James Dan and his campaign manager, Chris Azarro, both attended my Campaign War College that year, despite objections by many Republicans. They ran an extremely credible, grassroots campaign and came within a whisker of winning. No one was more disappointed that James came up short. And had he won, no one would have been happier.

In fact, I think every state legislature should be REQUIRED to have at least one Libertarian Party member to serve as a reminder to the Republicans how they're SUPPOSED to vote.

With that out of the way, let's get down to business.

As I said in my opening statement, I believe that, barring a miracle, Republicans are going to blow their opportunity to use their newly-acquired majority to fulfill the promise of finally putting the brakes on government. And when they do, fed-up limited-government Republicans are going to seriously look at political alternatives in 2006 and 2008.

Some will pull a "John Galt" and drop out completely, electing to stay home and not vote at all.

Others will begin actively supporting challenges to Republican incumbents in GOP primaries.

Some will leave the GOP and go "independent."

And others will seriously consider joining a third party.

The question, therefore, is whether or not the Libertarian Party will be prepared to take advantage of this window of opportunity and finally become a true, competitive ballot-box alternative to the Democrats and the Republicans.

So let's talk about that.

The title of my remarks today is, "Talk Is Cheap, Let's Go Play." It's a line I borrowed from the late great Baltimore Colts quarterback, Johnny Unitas and it fits perfectly with what I wanted to talk to you about today. Because I'm not here to debate with you or argue with you over theoretical, philosophical issues. I'm here to talk about the Top Ten things I think the LP needs to DO if it wants to take advantage of the coming political opportunities over the next four years.

1.) JUST WIN, BABY

Former Reagan adviser Lyn Nofziger wrote recently: "The purpose of running for office is to win." It's not to make a statement. It's not to participate in democracy. It's not to get your message out. It's to win. Period.

You all need to accept the fact that if you want to change public policy, you HAVE to change public officials. Some will say that educating and lobbying existing officials is the answer. I couldn't disagree more. All the lobbying in the world isn't going to make Ted Kennedy support a tax cut or get rid of the Department of Education. The ONLY way to change that VOTE from Massachusetts is to change that SENATOR from Massachusetts.

If you want to be a lobbying organization, then become a lobbying organization. But if you want to be a political party, then you need to WIN elections to significant offices. THAT'S the measure of an effective political party. All the chest-pounding about philosophical superiority doesn't mean squat. If you and your candidates are not winning elections, you and your party are not successful.

2.) GET RID OF THE LOSER'S LIMP

As a party, you NEED to start showing some real ballot-box success if the electorate in general is going to ever take you seriously. No one wants to be associated with a loser.

As actor George C. Scott said in his immortal opening speech in the Oscar-winning film Patton, "When you were kids, you all admired the champion marble shooter, the fastest runner, the big league ball players, the toughest boxers ... Americans love a winner and will not tolerate a loser. Americans play to win all the time. I wouldn't give a hoot in Hell for a man who lost and laughed."

Too many of your candidates lose and laugh.

The biggest problem with losing is that it's not only contagious, it's habit-forming. Once you get into the mindset that you're going to lose, losing becomes a self-fulfilling prophecy. You find yourself on the field, but simply going through the motions. You find yourself limping even when you're not hurt just to have an excuse for losing.

The LP is suffering from a bad case of political loser's limp. Too many of your candidates have no expectation of winning based on the fact that you have no track record of getting your candidates elected to major offices.

Many of your candidates are telling the public why they're going to lose even BEFORE they formally announce their plans to run! They blame the system. They blame the media. They blame the voters. They blame the lack of money...even though they've never taken seriously the need to raise it. They blame everyone but themselves.

This has GOT to end. You need to start thinking and acting like winners if you're ever going to be winners.

Unfortunately, when you field candidates who not only expect to lose, but run campaigns as though they don't CARE if they lose, you perpetuate the perception of being a party of happy losers. Whenever someone asks me why I don't take the Libertarian Party seriously, I always respond that I'll take the LP seriously when it takes the need to actually win elections seriously. I hope you'll start doing that TODAY.

3.) STOP FIGHTING WITH YOUR SOUL BROTHERS

Limited-government activists need to stop fighting with each other over the terms "libertarian" and "conservative." Libertarians don't want to be called conservatives and conservatives don't want to be called libertarians.

This isn't just silly, it's nuts. It separates natural allies over nothing more than semantics. Barry Goldwater was one of the most libertarian Republicans you're ever likely to find in the U.S. Senate. But his book was titled "Conscience of a Conservative," not "Conscience of a Libertarian."

The late President Ronald Reagan is the patron saint of modern-day conservatism. And he saw "conservative" and "libertarian" as two sides of the same coin, while recognizing they weren't identical.

In a 1976 interview with Reason magazine, Reagan said plainly, "If

you analyze it I believe the very heart and soul of conservatism is libertarianism. . . . The basis of conservatism is a desire for less government interference or less centralized authority or more individual freedom and this is a pretty general description also of what libertarianism is."

The problem in the Republican Party isn't the limited-government conservatism of Reagan and Goldwater, but the big government "compassionate conservatism" of President Bush.

You need to stop fighting with ALL Republicans and accept that some limited-government conservatives have chosen to stay in the GOP and fight from within. You need to find a way to join forces with them and support their candidates when they share your libertarian views. It does the movement no good to oppose someone like Rep. Ron Paul of Texas just because he's a registered Republican.

And if I'm ever invited to speak to a Republican audience again after today, I'll give them the exact same advice.

4.) STOP LEADING WITH YOUR CHIN Now I know you don't want to hear this, but the Libertarian Party has earned itself, deservedly or not, a really lousy reputation in the general public. Ask the average person what the LP is all about and you're likely to get some variation of the following: Drugs, prostitution and machine guns. Two points here:

One, if you're going to grow, you're going to need to accept people in your party who won't pass a 100% purity test. There are a number of people who, for example, will agree with your support for medicinal marijuana but who will draw the line at legalizing heroin. Sure, you might be able to win an academic debate with them on the issue, but that's not your objective. Or it shouldn't be.

Your objective should be to WIN elections and move the ball forward. You can't throw a "Hail Mary" pass on every play. And you win elections by addition, not subtraction. If you want to be successful politically, get used to the fact that a lot of new people joining you aren't going to agree with you on every issue.

Two, you need to stop leading with your chin. The Libertarian Party has some great positions on a WIDE variety of issues. I'm not saying you need to change your principles, but you don't have to start off every media interview or public appearance with drug legalization.

A wide range of voters will be supportive of your positions on taxes, spending, federal involvement in education, Social Security, Medicare, etc. Talk about THOSE issues...and don't let the press corner you and bait you into only talking about drugs, prostitutes and machine guns all the time. You need to focus on other issues if you're ever going to be taken seriously by the electorate.

5.) THE BEST PRODUCT DOESN'T ALWAYS WIN

Back in the early 80s when VCRs first hit the consumer market, all the experts and insiders "knew" that BETA was a far superior product to VHS. Have you rented any BETAs from Blockbuster lately?

And all the techno-geeks will tell you that the Mac is far superior to Bill Gate's Windows. Guess who's the richest man in America?

The libertarian philosophy of government is clearly the superior product. Unfortunately, the consumer isn't buying it. So you need to do a much better job marketing your product.

But don't despair. If there's one thing Americans are world-class at, it's marketing. We actually have people who were able to persuade huge numbers of Americans to pay good money for "pet rocks." People who are capable of selling pet rocks are capable of selling almost anything.

The LP is going to have to devote considerable time, effort and money to changing its public image. Right now you are the Yugos of politics. The New Coke. The Exxon Valdez. The Rodney Dangerfield. And all the polling in the world isn't going to change that image.

You don't need polling, you need a make-over artist. You need to find and raise the money to pay for the kind of professional public relations crisis management that corporations use when disaster strikes. You need the kind of guy Mike Tyson called for damage control after he bit off Evander Holyfield's ear.

6.) HUNT WHERE THE DUCKS ARE

There's strength in numbers. If you want to grow and compete successfully at the ballot box, you're going to need to get a LOT of new members. And they aren't always going to agree with you on every issue.

You really need to start with disgruntled Republicans. This notion that large numbers of unhappy Democrats might be attracted to Libertarians because Libertarians are moderate on social issues is a crock. Democrats love government. It's who and what they are.

Democrats who don't think the Democrat Party is far left enough will bolt for the Green Party or an independent like Ralph Nader. Those who think the Democrat Party is too far to the left will bolt for the Republicans.

This is decidedly NOT a target-rich environment for Libertarian recruitment.

No, it's Republicans who will sour on the Republican Party if the GOP fails to live up to expectations with their governing majorities over the next two-to-four years. THAT'S the fertile ground. THAT'S the low-hanging fruit. That's where you ought to be planting seeds.

On that account, I'm happy to say your national party appears to have recognized this and is moving in the right direction. Your national executive director, Joe Seehusen, recently began attending a well-known weekly DC briefing for leaders of the center-right coalition. The LP also just joined a conservative coalition which has formed to kill the death tax.

And as we gather here today in Los Angeles, the Libertarian Party is co-sponsoring CPAC in Washington for the first time. CPAC is the oldest and largest conference for conservative grassroots activists. This is extremely smart politics and will pay big dividends for you in the long run.

One last point in this regard. Before coming out here I mentioned to a Libertarian Party friend that the LP needed to do a much better job of recruiting and marketing. His response was, "Hey, we have a booth at the county fair every year." This is like the candidate who tells me he stands in front of grocery stores greeting shoppers. Neither is a particularly productive idea. Think about this...

As a general rule, about 50 percent of people you're going to meet aren't registered to vote...and don't WANT to.

Of those who ARE registered to vote, about half of them don't show up at the polls, especially in non-presidential elections. And of those remaining, about a third are hard-core Republicans and another third are hard-core Democrats. You're not about to change their minds.

So what you're left with is a VERY small number of people who might be interested in what you have to say. Let me suggest that there are better, more effective, cost-efficient ways to identify that small number of people and communicate with them than putting up a booth at the county fair. I'm not saying stop doing the county fairs. I'm saying to start doing other things.

7.) WHAT ARE YOU WAITING FOR, A WRITTEN INVITATION?

The #1 reason people don't give money to a political campaign is they haven't been asked. The #1 reason people don't volunteer to work on a political campaign is they haven't been asked. So what do you think the #1 reason is that more disillusioned voters don't switch parties?

You have to ask for the sale. You have to ASK people to join your party. Inertia and apathy are powerful forces working against you. If you don't extend an invitation, people simply are not inclined to wake up one morning and, on their own say, "Hey, I think I'll join the Libertarians today."

Now, let me be clear. Switching party affiliation is a BIG deal for most people. It is NOT a decision made lightly. So your job is to make it as easy and as painless as possible. And you may have to do it in

stages for some people. Fortunately, you have a potentially very powerful option at your disposal which will help people overcome their fear and reluctance about joining you. In essence, you let people "try before they buy." You allow people to join the LP without immediately switching their official voter registration.

You should actively encourage people to get a little taste of what you're all about first. THEN ask them to jump in with both feet.

Also, recognize how difficult it is for people to switch parties and always offer them a transition step. Don't force them to choose between being a Republican or a Libertarian right away. Encourage them first to simply declare themselves "independent." At the very least, that will force GOP candidates to compete for their vote, rather than continue taking it for granted.

There's already a growing movement all across the country of voters going independent. You should ENCOURAGE that. It will be a lot easier for you to recruit independent voters into the LP than to recruit Republicans into the LP.

8.) GET RID OF THE LOYALTY OATH*

*(I certify that I do not believe in or advocate the initiation of force as a means of achieving political or social goals.)

I know this is a very controversial point, but you have GOT to stop making it harder for people to join you by forcing people to sign off on a loyalty oath. The Democrats don't make you do it. The Republicans don't make you do it. The Green and Constitution parties don't make you do it. And you need to stop doing it.

You simply are not going to add voters to your ranks if you keep this oath in place. It's not so much that they disagree with the substance of the oath as it is the IDEA of taking ANY kind of oath to join a political

party in America.

That being said, I believe there ARE appropriate times and places for pledges. In fact, Grover Norquist's "Taxpayer Protection Pledge" is hugely successful and highly effective. But he doesn't require DONORS to sign it before joining Americans for Tax Reform. He requires CANDIDATES to sign it before they get his organization's support. There's nothing wrong with using a pledge in this manner.

But to require a loyalty oath before people who agree with you for the most part can join your organization is nuts.

Get...rid...of...the...oath.

9.) GETTING FROM HERE TO THERE...WHEREVER "THERE" IS

You need to develop goals and a long-term strategy for getting where you want to go...which starts with determining exactly where it IS you want to go and exactly WHEN you want to get there. Or as Newt Gingrich used to preach, you need to define what "success" is up front. And that goal needs to be not only ambitious, but realistic.

For example, at the national level you might want to define success in 2008 as getting over one million popular votes for you presidential candidate. It's doable...but it hasn't been done before. That'll show REAL progress. It'll build momentum. It'll have a snowball effect.

Now, in order to meet such a goal, you're going to have to follow the exact OPPOSITE strategy you used in 2004.

In an election which everyone under the sun predicted was going to be a squeaker, why you chose to put your time, effort and money into the "toss-up" states such as Nevada and New Mexico continues to dumbfound me. Fence-sitters who weren't thrilled with President Bush in toss-up states nevertheless weren't about to risk putting John Kerry in the White House by casting a "protest" vote for Badnarik.

On the other hand, had you campaigned actively and effectively for the votes of anti-Bush limited-government conservatives in states which were clearly locked up for Kerry and/or Bush, many more folks would have felt comfortable casting that protest vote, knowing it wouldn't affect the electoral college and overall outcome. You could have broken that one million mark in 2004 had you pursued a different electoral strategy.

Make no mistake. Both the Democrats and the Republicans pursue this kind of targeted, electoral college strategy. There's no reason the LP shouldn't do so, as well.

If you want to boost your popular vote total nationally, you need to target disgruntled Republicans in the solid red and blue states. Forget about the battleground states unless your goal is simply to spoil the election for the Republican candidate rather than building up the Libertarian Party.

And speaking of candidates, it would help to nominate someone who (a) isn't perceived as soft on terrorists, and (b) has some actual political experience.

Sure, celebrity candidates such as Howard Stern will attract attention, but they're not going to attract votes. The bearded lady at the carnival attracts attention, but you're not likely to marry her.

And just as you wouldn't allow a college intern to do your triple-bypass surgery, voters are not going to put an academic libertarian in the White House who has no real-world governing experience. Or even a retired general, for that matter. Just ask Wesley Clark.

Let me suggest a different road to consider. There are a number of high-profile Republicans out there who have governing experience and electoral credentials. They might not pass a libertarian purity-test, but they're certainly more in line with limited-government than a whole lot of other Republicans.

And these folks, primarily due to their positions on certain social issues, are highly unlikely to win in a Republican Party primary, although they would likely enjoy considerable support in the general election. People such as former New York Mayor Rudy Giuliani or former New Mexico Gov. Gary Johnson. People with real-world track records of success on the campaign trail and in office.

Now, Republicans such as this aren't going to just waltz into your office and beg to be your nominee. You're going to have to recruit them. You're going to have to court them. And you're going to have to bring some serious benefits to the table.

And the biggest one I can think of is the fact that they probably have no chance to get the GOP nomination. So maybe, just maybe, they'd entertain running as your Libertarian Party candidate and compete in the general election in November rather than get blown out before they even make it to South Carolina in the primary.

10.) STOP WHINING ABOUT THE PRESS

Seriously, folks. You all sound like a bunch of Republicans on this one. As Joe Gaylord, Newt Gingrich's former senior political strategist, would say, "Of course the press is biased. Get over it."

The fact is, getting press coverage in this business is called "earned media." They call it that because you have to EARN it. It's not an entitlement. You have no "right" to it. You can't buy it. And threats won't work either.

If you want to be taken seriously by the media and get coverage then you have to do two things:

One, WORK at it. Get to know the political reporters and columnists. Visit with them. Call them. Email them. Give them helpful, useful and timely information. And always keep in mind that fights make news. Reporters don't cover all the safe landings at LAX; only the crashes. Treat reporters professionally and courteously.

And when all else fails...feed them. Take 'em to breakfast or lunch. Let them see that you are a real person, a serious person, and not some flake.

Of course, it should go without saying that if you ARE a flake, then you're better off if you continue to just avoid the press.

Which brings me to the second point: If you want to overcome the perception that you're a bunch of space cadets and gadflies, you have to start acting in a serious and dignified manner. Getting yourself arrested at a presidential debate will get you media attention, but ain't gonna help your image.

Final note on this topic: Heed the age-old axiom never to pick a fight with someone who buys ink by the barrel and paper by the ton. If you have a problem with a reporter or a paper, usually the best thing to do is keep it to yourself. But if the problem is serious enough, if it goes to the heart of your credibility, then be professional and seek to resolve the problem PRIVATELY.

Bottom line: Stop whining about your lack of media coverage in public. It's unseemly and it's counter-productive. Take a page from E.F. Hutton. If you want media coverage, get it the old-fashioned way. Earn it.

In conclusion, let me make another six short recommendations for getting yourselves on the first rung of the electoral ladder...

1.) Either create a first-class candidate training program internally which focuses on the grassroots nuts-and-bolts of running a campaign, or send your candidates to a qualified candidate training program such as those conducted by the non-partisan Leadership Institute. Any candidate who isn't willing to participate in such a program is a candidate who

probably doesn't deserve your active support. The odds are all they're going to do is extend your losing streak and embarrass you at the ballot box. And giving cash to these "I-already-know-it-all" candidates is like giving the car keys to a drunken teenager. Nothing good can possibly come of it.

2.) Stop trying to start at the top. Get yourself elected to the state legislature before running for Congress.

3.) Consider running as a Republican, get yourself elected, gain some credibility, make some contacts...and THEN switch parties. Democrats and Republicans do it all the time. Just ask Jim Jeffords.

4.) Devote MUCH more time and effort to non-partisan races where party affiliation is less likely to help your opponent...or hurt you.

5.) Champion good, widely-popular ballot initiatives which focus POSITIVE attention on your party. The Massachusetts initiative a couple years back to eliminate the income tax was a great idea. Sponsoring ballot initiatives to legalize pot isn't.

6.) And lastly, for anyone here who wants to start getting serious about improving the marketing of the Libertarian Party and your candidates, go to www.thegaryhalbertletter.com and read every single one of the FREE newsletters direct marketing guru Gary Halbert has posted there in his archives. Just be prepared for some earthy language. Halbert pulls no punches.

In conclusion, let me thank you for your invitation to be here this weekend.

It takes a lot of courage and self-confidence to invite a speaker who you know is going to say some things you probably don't want to hear. But rest assured, my criticisms of the Libertarian Party aren't made because I'm happy to see you fail. They're because I want to see you succeed.

I strongly believe a huge window of opportunity is about to present itself to you in the coming months and years, but it will be up to you, each and every one of you in this room, to take advantage of that opportunity and help restore this nation to the limited-government principles of our Founders.

This isn't about being a Republican or a Democrat...or a conservative or a libertarian. It's about being an American in its true and original sense. And I wish you nothing but success. Thank you.

RATIONAL RECREATION

ANGUISH LANGUISH

The object of the Anguish Languish challenge is to read the seemingly nonsensical stream-of-consciousness poem written below, and decipher the underlying quotation, saying or exposition that it actually represents. The rules by which it is correlated to the underlying message, are that the words you read in the poem are phonetically similar in enunciation to the original message, although not always exactly so.

For example, as a simple start:

"Gamma Way", when stated aloud, actually sounds like "Get out of my way", or: Needles Toes Hay", translates to "Needless to say"

Now lets try a slightly more complicated one for you to solve on your own:

"Aye yum aerial doe mass."

(Didja get it? Do you think its true?)

And now here's the real heavy duty challenge:

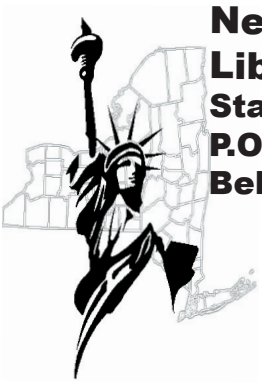
§

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ing all.**

§

(Hint: This is an observation by a locally known Libertarian)

Last Issue's Challenge was not solved. We are resubmitting it this issue for solution. I know someone has the wherewithal to make \$15.



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Libertarian Party
State Committee
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LPNY is looking for people to get things done. Interested?

Yes! I want to get things done and make things happen in the following area(s):

Be a LP candidate for elected office in my area.

Work in behalf of a LP candidate for elected office in my area.

Work on an LPNY Committee project or task.

Collect petition signatures to get LP candidates onto the ballot.

Contribute money to pay for other people to collect petition signatures.

Other:

Here are some skills or areas of interest I want to tell you about.

Name

Address

City State Zip

Home Phone Work Phone

E-mail address

Send to:

Libertarian Party of New York

P.O. Box 728

Bellport, NY 11713